

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 04648 181321Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /052 W  
-----181325Z 000005 /40  
O 181233Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 686

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 4648

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: SUAREZ CONFIRMED IN HIS POST; LATEST ELECTION RESULTS SHOW  
SLIGHT CHANGE

REF: MADRID 4626

1. PRIME MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN HIS  
POST BY THE KING, WHO ASKED HIM--IN WESTERN EUROPEAN MONARCHICAL  
FASHION--TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. IN A TV INTERVIEW, SUAREZ  
RECALLED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD  
REFLECT THE ELECTION RESULTS AND SAID HE HAS ASKED THE CUR-  
RENT CABINET TO STAY ON IN THE MEANTIME. SUAREZ ALSO REVEALED  
HE HAD TELEPHONED FELIPE GONZALEZ TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON  
HIS PARTY'S SECOND-PLACE SHOWING.

2. WITH ALMOST 95 PERCENT OF THE VOTES COUNTED, THE LOWER HOUSE  
POSITIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES WERE ANNOUNCED AS FOLLOWS  
PERCENT

PARTY	VOTES	VOTES	SEATS
UCD	6,020,993	34.34	165
PSOE	4,998,827	28.51	118
PCE	1,582,022	9.02	20
AP	1,449,091	8.26	17

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 04648 181321Z

PSP-FPS 761,625 4.34 6

3. INTERESTINGLY, THE SEAT ALLOTMENT HAS CHANGED ONLY  
SLIGHTLY, NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE UCD AND THE PSOE,  
WHILE IN THE POPULAR VOTE THE UCD MARGIN HAS INCREASED.  
ACCORDING TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICAN JOURNALIST, THIS IS  
BECAUSE THE EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) REFLECTED AN

ACCURATE, PROVINCE-BY-PROVINCE TALLY OF THE SEATS AT THAT TIME, BUT A MISCALCULATION OF THE OVERALL POPULAR VOTE. THE JOURNALIST THEORIZED THAT THIS CAUSED THE INTERIOR MINISTRY TO PANIC AND TO HOLD BACK POPULAR-VOTE DATA FOR A TIME.

4. THE RESULTS AS ANNOUNCED ENJOY A GENERAL CREDIBILITY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN UNDERSTANDABLE CRITICISM ABOUT THE DELAYS AND ERRORS IN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. REPORTS HAVE CONTINUED TO FILTER OUR ABOUT SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING THE VOTES CAST AND COUNTED. AS OF NOW, THEY INCLUDE NOT ONLY INSUFFICIENT BALLOTS IN SOME PRECINCTS, BUT VOTERS INEXPLICABLY TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT PRECINCTS THAN BEFORE, BALLOTS DELIBERATELY JUMBLED (OR THOSE OF A GIVEN PARTY REMOVED) IN VOTING BOOTHS, AND ONE EXOTIC CASE OF A WOMAN PRESIDING OVER A PRECINCT WHO FLEW INTO A (STILL UNEXPLAINED) RAGE AND SMASHED THE BALLOT BOX. RETURNS MISADDRESSED, OTHERS SENT BY TELEGRAMS WITH GARBLES WHICH CAUSED THE COMPUTER TO REJECT THEM, AND THE MOUNTING EXHAUSTION OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED HAVE ADDED TO THE DIFFICULTIES IN COMING UP WITH A FINAL TALLY, AS HAVE THE FORMAL COMPLAINTS LODGED BY PARTY INTERVENTORS AT VARIOUS PRECINCTS. IF THESE ACTS SHOWED ERRORS WERE MADE, HOWEVER, THEY ALSO SHOWED THAT THE SYSTEM OF SAFEGUARDS WAS WORKING. WE HAVE A REPORT THAT THE PSOE WAS PARTICULARLY WELL ORGANIZED TO RESPOND TO DIFFICULTIES (SUCH AS INADEQUATE BALLOTS) IN PRECINCTS AS THEIR INTERVENTORS TELEPHONED IN TO A CENTRAL EMERGENCY SQUAD. THE UCD TEAM, THE REPORT SAID, WENT HOME FOR LUNCH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 04648 181321Z

EVEN THOUGH THEY TOO HAD BALLOT PROBLEMS.

5. THE SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION CONTINUED TO MAKE ITS EFFECTS FELT, WITH THE TWO FRONT-RUNNING PARTIES STILL ADVANTAGED IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF SEATS OVER PERCENTAGE OF VOTES, AND THE OTHER THREE OF THOSE LISTED ABOVE APPRECIABLY DISADVANTAGED. WHILE THE LARGEST PARTY (UCD) WAS THE MOST ADVANTAGED OVERALL, HOWEVER, OUR PRELIMINARY CHECKS SHOW THAT IN THOSE CASES (12 PROVINCES AT CURRENT COUNT) WHERE THE FIRST - AND SECOND-PLACE PARTIES OBTAINED THE SAME NUMBER OF SEATS, IT WAS THE SOCIALISTS--RATHER THAN SUAREZ' PARTY--THAT GOT THE PREMIUM IN 7 OUT OF 12 CASES. FOR EXAMPLE, STILL INCOMPLETE RESULTS FOR MADRID SHOW THE UCD OVER 3 PERCENTAGE POINTS AHEAD OF THE PSOE, BUT THE TWO PARTIES ARE ALLOTTED THE SAME NUMBER OF SEATS (11). OTHER SEAT ALLOCATIONS IN MADRID ARE: AP, 4; PCE, 3; PSP, 3.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE IRREGULARITIES AND THE FOUL-UPS

IN THE COUNTING, THE GUARANTEE OF THE CREDIBILITY  
OF THESE ELECTIONS LIES IN THE SOCIALIST OVERALL ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE RESULTS THOUGH GONZALEZ HAS MADE UNDERSTANDABLY  
CLEAR HIS PARTY'S IRRITATION AT SOME OF THE SNAFUS.  
CERTAINLY THERE WILL BE SOME CHALLENGES TO SPECIFIC  
RESULTS BY VARIOUS PARTIES. THE OVERALL VOTE FOR THE  
LEFT (PSOE, PSP, AND PCE) STANDS, ON THE BASIS OF THE  
CURRENT TALLY, AT ABOUT 42 PERCENT. WE CONTINUE TO HOLD  
THE VIEW (MADRID'S 4608) THAT SUAREZ WILL PROBABLY PUT  
TOGETHER A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, USING IN GOOD MEASURE  
PRINCIPAL UCD FIGURES. STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MADRID04648  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770218-1033  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaablav.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 966d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MADRID 4626  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2104633  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUAREZ CONFIRMED IN HIS POST; LATEST ELECTION RESULTS SHOW SLIGHT CHANGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, (SUAREZ, ADOLFO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/966d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009